

**ENTERED**

February 18, 2021

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MCALLEN DIVISION

THE LAW FUNDER, LLC,

Plaintiff,

VS.

SERGIO MUNOZ, JR., and LAW  
OFFICES OF SERGIO MUNOZ, JR, P.C.,

Defendants.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 7:14-cv-00981

**ORDER**

The Court now considers “Plaintiff’s Unopposed Motion for Continuance of Final Pre-Trial Hearing.”<sup>1</sup> This case has been pending since December 2014.<sup>2</sup> The parties appeared for a scheduling conference on September 15, 2020, and agreed that this case’s jury trial should be continued to spring 2021 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulties of assembling a jury and for witnesses to travel.<sup>3</sup> In an order issued that same day, the Court ordered the parties to appear for a final pretrial conference on March 5, 2021.<sup>4</sup> The instant motion requests the Court continue the final pretrial conference “until a date after August 01, 2021.”<sup>5</sup> Plaintiff requests a 5-month continuance solely because of the COVID-19 pandemic and travel difficulties.<sup>6</sup> Defendants are unopposed.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dkt. No. 167.

<sup>2</sup> Dkt. No. 1.

<sup>3</sup> See Minute Entry (Sept. 15, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> Dkt. No. 162.

<sup>5</sup> Dkt. No. 167 at 1.

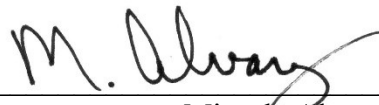
<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 3.

“A district court has inherent power ‘to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants.’”<sup>8</sup> The Court agrees that a continuance is warranted in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiff’s motion.<sup>9</sup> The final pretrial conference previously scheduled for March 5, 2021,<sup>10</sup> is continued to **August 17, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.** The trial setting in April 2021 is **CANCELLED**. Parties have already filed their joint pretrial order<sup>11</sup> and need not file another, but if the parties wish to update or renew their joint pretrial order or pretrial submissions, they must be filed no later than **July 20, 2021**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DONE at McAllen, Texas, this 17th day of February 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Alvarez", is written over a horizontal line.

Micaela Alvarez  
United States District Judge

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<sup>8</sup> *United States v. Colomb*, 419 F.3d 292, 299 (5th Cir. 2005) (quoting *Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936)).

<sup>9</sup> Dkt. No. 167.

<sup>10</sup> Dkt. No. 162.

<sup>11</sup> Dkt. No. 163.